

provided by the angled flexible gasket pressing against flexible duct 52 is sufficient to fasten flexible duct 52 to fitting 60.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 8, with the following paragraph.

Female end 106 has an increased diameter portion 114 to accommodate raised bead 108 as the male end 104 is inserted into the female end 106 over raised bead 108 and flexible gasket 102. As shown in Fig. 8, the inside wall 115 of portion 114 contacts raised bead 108 when the male end and female ends are joined. In addition, the outer end of portion 114, which can include angled lip 116 to ease insertion of the male end 104 into female end 106 and to prevent damage to flexible gasket 102 during insertion, contacts raised bead 110. Thus, raised beads 108 and 110 both act as stop beads to prevent male end 104 from being inserted too far into female end 106. Of course, if desired, raised beads 108, 110 may act together or independently as stop beads.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 11, line 18, with the following paragraph.

Female end 106 also includes a raised bead 118 that accommodates flexible gasket 102 once the male end 104 is joined with the female end 106. Flexible gasket 102 should press against the top surface 118a or the side walls 118b or 118c of raised bead 118 to create a relatively air-tight seal. In addition, flexible gasket 102 and raised bead 118 form a fastened joint between male end 104 and female end 106. Once flexible gasket 102 is seated in raised bead 118, an attempt to separate male end 104 from female end 106 will cause flexible gasket 102 to press against sidewall 118b. Because flexible gasket 102 is held at an angle, removal of male end 104 from female end 106 will be met with resistance. Thus, the male end 104 and the female end 106 are mechanically fastened together by duct joining system 100.